



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Water Resources Commission
Division of Water Pollution Control

110 Tremont Street, Boston 02108

RECEIVED

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Virginia Hunt
FROM: William Coughan *W.P. Coughan*
RE: Public Information on Olin Chemical Facility in Wilmington
DATE: October 10, 1980

Following up on our phone conversation regarding this subject, this is to notify you that an administrative order has been issued to the Olin Chemical Facility in Wilmington.

As we discussed, the DWPC staff does not feel that the situation is a particularly newsworthy event justifying a press release. However, if a policy has been established requiring a release on an administrative order of this nature, the points to be emphasized in this case are as follows:

While this order is issued to Olin Corporation, the problems at the subject facility were not caused by Olin. Olin just recently (September 15, 1980) purchased the facility from another party. The problems at the facility resulted from the operations of the previous owner, Stephen Chemical Co. These problems were the subject of an enforcement action through the Office of the Attorney General which resulted in Stephen Chemical Co. paying a \$16,000 fine.

The involvement of Olin Corporation has been of a cooperative and constructive nature. During Olin's negotiations to purchase the facility and since the purchase was consummated, Olin has been open and cooperative with the DWPC in an attempt to define the problem which exists at the site and to identify remedial action to abate or prevent pollution from the site.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
GEORGE S. J. LEBY
OF THE NATIONAL POLYMERALS INC.
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The order issued to Olin formalizes for both parties the agreed upon terms of these cooperative efforts to address this problem.

The order is based on the findings that:

Stepan's facility generated chemical wastes consisting of sulfates, chlorides and ammonia compounds. For a number of years prior to 1972, Stepan discharged chemical wastes without treatment into unlined pits. From 1972 until Olin acquired the property Stepan discharged calcium sulfate sludge into lined lagoons at the facility.

The order provides that within thirty days, Olin submit to DEQE, M&PC a scope of work for a study of potential water pollution from their facility and recommended remedial measures necessary to achieve a level of discharge of pollutants as is economically and technically practicable to meet Massachusetts water quality standards.

The order requires Olin to then conduct the study and propose a schedule for implementing necessary remedial measures.

If you wish to further discuss the merits or lack thereof of issuing a press release on this order, I will be pleased to discuss it. If a release is necessary, I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss or review the release before it is issued.

WPG/vp

P.S. I spoke to Malcolm Pittman of the Attorney General's Office. He will be in contact with you regarding a joint release.

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U.S. V. Charles George Squires
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